

L A G N I A P P E

The Official Newsletter of the Louisiana
Athletic Trainers' Association



Fall
2004

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Act Now to Protect Your Rights to Practice

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed a rule change regarding the qualifications of personnel providing "incident to" physical rehabilitation services provided in physician practices. This rule change would require that the person providing these services only be a PT, PTA, OT or OTA. If this rule change is adopted, it would prohibit athletic trainers from providing these services.

It's important that ALL athletic trainers, regardless of practice setting, take action now to secure our ability to be reimbursed for the services that we provide, now and in the future. If this rule change occurs it will be a first step down a long slippery slope that will have a negative impact on your ability to practice as an athletic trainer in the future. This policy has the potential to set a precedent for greater limitations and restrictions on where and how athletic trainers provide care. Additionally, it has the potential to limit future employment opportunities for athletic trainers in all settings.

As professionals, we have worked long and hard to earn the respect of the healthcare community. Now we must demonstrate to CMS that athletic trainers are qualified healthcare professionals and that we are entitled to be compensated for the services we provide. Take the time to send a letter to CMS. Encourage your physicians, administrators and other healthcare professionals to also contact CMS on your behalf. This is a situation where numbers count. The more letters, faxes and e-mails CMS receives, the greater voice we will have. As of September 1st, only half of the necessary 3000 letters have been received. All letters must be submitted by September 24th.

For more information, as well as sample letters and additional resources, go to www.NATA.org members' section.

President's Message From Gary Lewis

Once again another year is upon us. I hope everyone had a relaxing summer and is ready to have a great year.

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as LATA president. It was a privilege to serve as your vice-president for the last six years and I look forward with pleasure to this new office. I am very fortunate to follow in the footsteps of some good individuals that have made LATA into a great organization. I would like to thank Ed Evans for all the hard work he did as state president during the past six years.

Congratulations to Mike Dawson our new vice-president and to Karen Lew who will serve as Continuing Education Director. Dr. Ronnie Harper will be the new chairman for

the High School Relations Task Force. I would like to thank Donnie Kron for all of the diligent work that he has done as head of this Task Force.

Thanks to Phillip Shaw, Robert Williamson, Kurt Franton and staff for doing a fantastic job as host of the Summer Symposium in Monroe.

In July Ed and Allen represented LATA at a NATA conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ed will report on the conference at our Winter Business Meeting.

I have met with Scottie Patton of the New Orleans Saints; the Saints will host the Hall of Fame Enshrinement at the Louisiana Superdome on Dec. 10, 2004. Dr. Kim LeBlanc and John Henry Williams will be honored.

I have asked the Public Relationship Committee to start a scrapbook for the LATA. Please send copies of photos of old LATA events, your old and current staffs and anything else you can think of to Jamie Cochran. Please include names of individuals in the photos, the date if known, and information about the picture. You may wish to include copies of old newspaper articles. Your assistance is appreciated.

Remember that this is your organization and I hope that each and every one of you will support it. The only way for us to continue to grow and improve is through the combined efforts of everyone. Please say yes if you are asked to serve the organization.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Winter Business Meeting in Lafayette on Jan. 9, 2005. Please contact me if you have any new or old business or ideas that you would like to discuss at this meeting. I will be posting the final plans for the Hall of Fame Enshrinement and the Winter Business Meeting on the LATA web site in the near future.

LATA Committee Updates

Governmental Affairs Committee
Legislative Update August 2004

By Allen Fugler

The 2004 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature afforded the LATA an opportunity to address a matter of concern that is the core of its mission: the health and safety of high school athletes. Authored by Senator Don Hines (D-Bunkie) and supported by your association Senate Concurrent Study Request 1 required the House and Senate Education Committees to jointly study the issue of improving the health and safety of student athletes in Louisiana secondary schools. Dr. Hines, the only medical doctor in the legislature and the current President of the Senate, lent his name to a bill that was largely drafted by the LATA. Before the 2005 regular Session, the Committees will meet jointly, hear testimony on the issue, and report back to the full Senate and House.

The joint Committee meeting will hear testimony from and also report their findings to the superintendent of the Department of Education, the president of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, and to the chief administrative officer of the following: the Louisiana School Boards Association, the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, the Louisiana High School Athletics Association, the Louisiana High School Coaches Association, the Parent Teacher Association of Louisiana, the Louisiana Orthopedics Association, the Louisiana Athletic Trainers Association, and the Louisiana Sports Medicine Society. The meetings will bring many of the interested parties to the table to discuss the current state of health care for student athletes and the means to improve it.

The meetings will also provide a forum in which the LATA can address its concerns over access to ATCs by student athletes, funding for proper ATC support in secondary schools, violations of its practice act and other important issues. The discussion will certainly raise awareness for these issues with groups that directly impact school funding and administration.

The Executive Committee of the LATA is currently selecting the association's representatives to the Study Resolution meetings. These representatives and I will prepare and deliver the testimony at the joint Committee meeting, which will probably take place in the late fall. I will certainly keep you all informed on the progress and results of the chance to "be heard" by those most deeply involved in and concerned with this important area of the athletic training profession.

LATA Past President Ed Evans and I recently realized another opportunity for legislative development during the first-ever NATA Legislative Conference. Sponsored by the Board of Certification and the National Athletic Trainers Association, the two-day meeting in Salt Lake City allowed states to share success stories and ongoing challenges. I was particularly encouraged to discover that many other states share the same concerns as ATCs in Louisiana, and that we all share some of the same "political landscape." Regardless of time zones or topography, it seems that ATCs everywhere deal encroachments by Physical Therapists, limitations of adequate funding, marketing their profession to other health care practitioners, educating an often ambivalent audience of parents, regulators and legislators, defining the scope of practice of their own profession, and other similar themes.

I took away from the unique forum several contacts and histories that I hope will allow the LATA to avoid past pitfalls and repeat the success stories. I appreciate the support of the LATA Executive Board in sponsoring my attendance, and as always, for the opportunity to represent the Athletic Training profession in the Louisiana Legislature.

Organizational Affairs Committee

Nothing submitted for this issue.

Education Committee

Nothing submitted for this issue.

Public Relations Committee

By Andy Hurla

If your reading this, then you know we have finally been able to produce a Newsletter. It might be short in length and talk mostly about things happening in Central Louisiana, but we do the best we can with what we've got. Our goal is to publish four newsletters each year: Fall (August/September), Winter (November/December), Spring (February/March) and Summer (May/ June). If you have something happening in your area relating to the Athletic Training Profession or an LATA member, please, let us know about it and we'll be happy to include it in the next edition of Lagniappe.

To submit news for Lagniappe:

- Write a description of the event
- Be sure to include the full names of those involved
- Include dates and locations where it occurred
- Please spell correctly (I can't tell if things are misspelled or not)
- Email it to Andrew.hurla@christusheath.org

At our President's request, we are trying to assemble an LATA Scrapbook. However, we are still in need of items to be included. If you have any items that you feel should be included, please feel free to share them. If you have something you would like to submit, contact Jamie Cochran at thecochranfamily@bellsouth.net. Jamie is a very talented and creative person with a lot of experience in constructing scrapbooks, however she still needs things to work with. If you have pictures, newspaper clippings, programs, anything at all, please take the time to send them in.

Trey Younger is still serving as our web site coordinator. Even though he is now in Texas, Trey is still dedicated to updating and posting new information on the web site, www.latainc.org. Be sure to take a few minutes every so often to see what is new. If you have something to be posted or have any comments about the site, you can reach Trey at younger3@usa.net.

Financial Affairs Committee

Nothing submitted for this issue.

Research and Development Committee

Nothing submitted for this issue.

Secondary School Committee

Nothing submitted for this issue.

2004 Summer Symposium Review

LATA Gathers in Monroe for Annual Symposium

Our 26th Annual Summer Symposium was held June 29th through July 1st at the Monroe Holiday Inn Holidome. University of Louisiana at Monroe Assistant Athletic Trainer Robert Williamson, MEd, LAT and his host committee did an outstanding job in organizing a quality event.

The Symposium kicked off Tuesday June 29th with a golf tournament at Frenchman's Bend Golf Course. The LATA members then gathered that afternoon at the Monroe Holiday Inn for committee and general business meetings before moving to the Fant-Ewing Coliseum on the campus of University of Louisiana at Monroe for a tropical islands themed social.

Educational Symposium

Wednesday and Thursday's educational symposium featured speakers from across the Southeast and Louisiana. Presentations covered a variety of topics including discussions on current injury trends by the orthopedic surgeons from the Orthopedic Clinic of Monroe, as well as rehabilitation techniques and administrative strategies presented by Certified Athletic Trainers from Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida.

The featured speaker of the symposium was Dr. Lanny Boswell, PT, PhD, OCS, Cmdr. Dr. Boswell is the Director of Strategic Analysis, Physical Training Consultant and Sports Medicine Researcher for the U.S. Naval Service Training Command. His talk dealt with the pertinent issue of Ergogenic Aids, performance enhancing substances and devices.

Other Speakers included:

- Rod Lich, ATC from Orange Park HS in Orange Park, FL
- R.T. Floyd, PhD, ATC, District 9 Director and Program Director at the University of West Alabama
- Traci Murphy, ATC, LAT from the University of Louisiana at Monroe
- Nikki Rainwater, OTC, ATC from the Orthopedic Clinic of Monroe
- Ken Locker, ATC, NATA Committee on Revenue Chairman and Manager of Baylor SportsCare within the Baylor Health Care System at the Tom Landry Center

Hall of Fame Banquet

The highlight of the week came Wednesday night at the LATA Hall of Fame Banquet. The banquet's highlight was the induction of two new members to the LATA Hall of Fame. The first inductee was **Dr. Kim LeBlanc**. Dr. LeBlanc has been a long time supporter of the LATA and the athletic training profession. As Team Physician for University of Louisiana at Lafayette he has helped numerous athletes recover from athletic injuries.

The second inductee was **John Henry Williams**, LAT. Mr. Williams is the Head Athletic Trainer at New Iberia High School where he also serves as a teacher and equipment manager. Early in his career, he significantly contributed to groundbreaking research regarding heat illness and dehydration at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Mr. Williams is noted for his quiet, selfless service to his school, community and church.

Election Results

The evening was concluded with the results in the voting for three LATA officers. The new Director of Continuing Education is **Karen Lew**, MEd, ATC, LAT. **Mike Dawson**, ATC, LAT was elected as Vice President while **Gary "Flop" Lewis**, LAT became the new President for the Louisiana Athletic Trainers' Association succeeding Ed Evans, MS, ATC, LAT from Northwestern State University. The LATA membership is very grateful to Ed for his hard work and dedication in serving the Louisiana Athletic Trainers' Association and the athletic training profession.

Hall of Fame Pictures

Anyone who would like to purchase any of the pictures taken by the professional photographer at the Hall of Fame Banquet should contact Phil Shaw at pshaw@ulm.edu or 318-342-5381. Phil will also bring the pictures to the winter business meeting for everyone to view. He will take orders at that time but you must pay for them at the meeting.

AWARDS

Several athletic trainers have been recognized by the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association and the Louisiana Athletic Trainers' Association for their efforts and dedication to our profession.

SEATA and Tim Kerin Memorial Awards

Award of Merit: Janet Passman, Louisiana College

College/University Athletic Trainer: Ed Evans, Northwestern State University

CMS Canvas Scholarships

The Eugene Christmas College Educational Scholarship
Lauren Gontkof, Louisiana State University

The Gordon Reynolds High School Educational Scholarship
Amanda Petrey, Lutchter High School

Bubba Porche Awards

High School Student Athletic Trainer

Amanda Petrey, Lutchter High School

College Athletic Training Student

Justin Gremillion, Southeaster Louisiana University

Charlie Martin Service Award

10-Year Service Pins

- Scott Cochran, ATC, LAT
- Bart Jones, ATC, LAT, EMT
- Ricky Castanedta, ATC, LAT
- Phil Page, PT, ATC.

To be eligible for a service pin, individuals must be a Certified or Licensed Athletic Trainer and be a member in good standing with the LATA during the service years. Pins are given for 10, 20 and 25 years of service as an ATC or LAT, time as a student member does not count. If you believe you have fulfilled these requirements, contact Pam Guidry at plknight1@juno.com.

LATA Members Volunteer in Greece

Note: This is a reprint of an article that appeared in the August 14, 2004 issue of the *The Town Talk*

Going Greek

John Marcase

Staff

The Town Talk

La. College professors part of excitement in Athens

Plenty has been written and much more said about the Athens Games.

Will the venues be ready? Will the infrastructure be in place? Will the terrorists strike?

None of that matters for a couple of Louisiana College professors, who have spent their summer in Greece and are now taking part in the Olympics as athletic trainers. "To be here as they prepare for the Games has been a once in a lifetime experience," said Lori McGaha, a former player on the LC women's basketball team and a teacher in the school's athletic training program. "I had always dreamed of being a part of the Olympics, but from an athlete's point of view."

McGaha can thank colleague Janet Passman for making the trip happen. Passman, who is the director of LC's athletic training program, was looking for a way to combine her

students' education with mission work overseas. "I decided to target the Athens Olympic games so the students would get fired up about it," Passman said. "If I could get one student to go and come back and tell other students about it, they may want to go internationally, too."

As Passman began doing the groundwork, a missionary in Athens submitted her name to the International Sports Federation. Passman and McGaha took part in an ISF mission trip to Greece last summer. This summer, the duo brought back many members of the LC women's basketball team and a few students to conduct camps and missions work during the month of June.

McGaha, Passman and LC student Kim Reed-a point guard for the Lady Cats-remained in Greece. The trio helped with other mission camps while waiting for the Olympics. McGaha and Passman volunteered to be trainers for the Olympics and were accepted after a lengthy process. Reed will continue to help the ISF. McGaha will work in the baseball training room, commuting nearly 90 minutes each way on a daily basis during the game. Passman has a shorter commute, as she'll work with volleyball.

The two continue somewhat of an LC tradition, as longtime LC trainer, the late Doc Ayres, was the trainer for the 1972 U.S. men's basketball team. Ayres can be seen on the many replays of that Olympiad's controversial gold medal game trying to calm U.S. coach Henry Iba.

McGaha won't have to worry about a repeat scenario as the U.S. failed to qualify in baseball. "I expect to take some kidding from the athletes and staff, but then again, I can point out how many American players are playing for their home countries or Greece," she said.

Passman said the transformation Greece has made the past 12 months has been amazing. "Since last year, there has been a lot of construction and dust and it's settling now," she said. "I feel the country is ready. It's exciting to be in Greece, where the first Olympics was held."

"I came to do God's work in Greece and God has been faithful to me by showing the way." The duo's strong faith has helped ease any concerns they may have about security during the Games. "A month ago I was a little more skeptical, but they have really stepped up the security, and it is very tough to move around the city near the Olympic sites," said McGaha. "All in all, I feel as safe as I would anywhere. I believe God's hand of protection will be on this country during this time and keep us safe."

Still, McGaha admitted to being startled by something near the baseball venue Wednesday. "There were two trucks set up with the (Patriot) missiles pointed upward with some other military trucks down the hill," said McGaha. "It's a sobering sight."

The biggest problem, it turns out, could be whether or not the power remains on. Passman and McGaha were two people away from receiving their Olympic accreditation

when Athens experienced its blackout last month. "They have assured everyone that they have since figured out the problem, which may mean that some people will go without power during the day," said McGaha.

Louisiana Outreach Program Recognized

CHRISTUS Louisiana Sports Medicine Finalist for "Best Practice" Award

The athletic trainers of CHRISTUS Louisiana Sports Medicine at Cabrini, a program of CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, were excited to learn that they are finalists for the CHRISTUS Touchstone Awards. The Touchstone Awards are a recognition program of CHRISTUS Health Systems, a catholic healthcare organization that operates 40 hospitals and facilities in six states and Mexico.

The intent of the Touchstone Awards is to encourage and promote excellence within the CHRISTUS organization. These "Best Practices" are recognized in the areas of clinical quality, service quality, business literacy, value to community and spirit exchange. CHRISTUS Louisiana Sports Medicine (CLSM) is one of five finalists in the community value category. They are being recognized for their work providing outreach healthcare to the rural schools of central Louisiana. CLSM works with over 50 high schools in 11 parishes of Cenla from their base of operations in Alexandria.

"We are very excited to be named as finalists," said Scott Cochran, ATC, LAT, Program Director for CLSM. "We know we're probably not front runners to win. The other programs do so much to provide healthcare to those in need. Just by being named as finalists we know that CHRISTUS appreciates and values what our athletic trainers are doing in Central Louisiana." Scott and staff athletic trainer Katie Parkerson, MS, ATC, LAT will travel to Houston September 8-10 to attend a Leadership Conference and the awards ceremonies.

The CHRISTUS Louisiana Sports Medicine staff also includes:

Staci Beebe, ATC, LAT

Chris Brister, MA, ATC, LAT

Andy Hurla, MS, ATC, LAT

Jason Drury, MEd, ATC, LAT

Rob DeLong, MEd, ATC, LAT

Barry "BJ" Duplantis, LAT

Jennifer Bruhl, LAT

Joe Parker, MS, ATC, LAT

Jill Whitehead, MEd, ATC, LAT

Katie Homayoun, ATC, LAT

Ellie Mullnix, MS, ATC, LAT

Jamie Cochran, ATC, LAT

Sasa Jezdic, ATC, LAT

Congratulations

LATA member Staci Clouse was united in marriage to Jason Beebe August 21st. Staci is an athletic trainer for CHRISTUS Louisiana Sports Medicine at Cabrini. After a brief honeymoon in New Orleans, the couple is at home in Flatwoods, LA.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

November 2004

2nd Election Day
21st BOCATC Certification Exam, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

December 2004

10th LATA Hall of Fame Enshrinement and Social, Superdome

January 2005

9th LATA Winter Business Meeting, ULL, Bourgeois Hall

February 2005

18th-19th: SEATA Student Clinical Symposium, Atlanta, GA

March 2005

30th-3rd **National Athletic Training Month**
SEATA Clinical Symposium and Meeting, Atlanta, GA

June 2005

12th-16th NATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium, Indianapolis, IN
26th BOCATC Certification Exam, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
26th-28th LATA Summer Meeting and Clinical Symposium, Natchitoches